



THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY LIMITED

香港觀鳥會有限公司

Approved Charitable Institution of a Public Character
認可公共性質慈善機構

G. P. O. Box 12460, Hong Kong 香港郵政總局信箱 12460 號

Tel: 2377 4387 Fax: 2314 3687

Website 網頁: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk>

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Dear Members,

Nature Conservation – Express Your Views

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to urge you to have a look at the government's consultation document on nature conservation policy and write to the government to tell them your views.

We watch birds. We treasure them as companions in life. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that they have a future, as we would wish the same for our children. Nature conservation is the foundation to this endeavour.

The government's document is admittedly somewhat technical in various places. However, each and every one of us could all read it as a caring person and help the government with our views based on common sense. Indeed, communities would grow and mature only if common sense prevails.

The Society will study the consultation document carefully, especially its technical aspects. It will also collect members' views through the Society's website. If there is sufficient enthusiasm among members, the Society would formulate a position and convey it to the government.

The voice of every individual counts in this consultation process. Please do write to the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB). Tell them how you feel about nature in Hong Kong and its conservation. Tell them what you think should be done. The annex gives an illustration of points which bird watchers might have in mind. But it is most important **to use your own words to reflect your own thoughts**. You may talk in general terms. You may also comment specifically on the options brought up in the consultation document, such as how to preserve ecologically important sites under private ownership.

You may view the consultation document in the website of ETWB [<http://www.etwb.gov.hk>]. If you have enquiries, call them at 21507144. Send your views to:

Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works
10/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong
Fax: 21363321
E-mail: nature_views@etwb.gov.hk

While their formal deadline is 18 October, we suggest that you do it **before mid September**. Please send a copy of your views to the Society so that we would understand better the thinking of our members. Either mail to GPO Box 12460 or e-mail to hkbws@hkbws.org.hk.

Show your concern. Write a message. Let the government know that many people in Hong Kong care about the conservation of nature.

For and on behalf of the
Executive Committee

Chim Yuk Ming (Ms)
Hon. Secretary

Annex:

As bird watchers, we have many things to talk about. As a matter of illustration:

- Diversity in habitat types is important to diversity in birds (and other animals too).
- We value the diversity in birds for one reason or another (up to you to figure out what it is for you).
- Biodiversity contributes greatly to the quality of life.
- Biodiversity is essential to the sustainable development of Hong Kong and that of the world.
- Hong Kong aspires to be a world city; the conservation of nature is its global moral responsibility.
- A nature conservation policy must be in place to underpin work on preserving biodiversity.
- Country parks serve as the refuge for wildlife in Hong Kong. No attrition of any form or degree should be allowed whatever policy options are eventually adopted.
- Species-specific conservation plans should be drawn up and implemented to prevent the extirpation of certain bird species (and other animal species), either for global conservation value (e.g. Black-faced Spoonbill) or for local cultural value (e.g. Barn Swallow).
- Some government land containing appropriate habitat types should be deployed for species/habitat conservation programmes.